

In the Claims

Claims 1-48, 61-66, and 69 are pending. Claims 49-60 have been withdrawn. Claims 67-68 were previously withdrawn. No new matter has been added.

Remarks

In the Restriction Requirement of January 17, 2008, the Examiner listed two groups of inventions:

- I. Claims 1-48, 61-66, and 69, drawn to a system and kit for fluid processing, classified in class 604, subclass 416.
- II. Claims 49-60, drawn to an apparatus for piercing a container, classified in class 604, subclass 411.

In response, Applicants hereby elects, with traverse, Group I including claims 1-48, 61-66, and 69. Accordingly, claims 49-60 and Claims 67-68 have been withdrawn.

Additionally, the Examiner states that the application contains claims directed to the following patentably distinct species:

- a. FIGS. 1A-1B, 2A-2B
- b. FIG. 1C
- c. FIGS. 3A-3I, 6, 2A-2B
- d. FIGS. 4, 5A-5C, 7A-7D, 8A-8C, 9A-9F, 10, 11, 12A-12B

In response, Applicant elects species c, including FIGS. 3A-3I, 6, 2A-2B. Applicant believes elected claims 1-48, 61-66, and 69 are readable on the elected species.

Conclusion

Applicants believe they have been fully responsive to the restriction requirement. However, if any matter arises which may expedite issuance of a notice of allowance; the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned, at the telephone number given below.

Applicants do not believe that an extension of time is required as the Office action states that a shortened statutory period for reply is set to expire 3-months from the mailing date of the Office action (which was December 20, 2007). However, if an extension of time is, in fact, required, Applicants request that the associated extension fee be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-4383. Applicants also request that any other fee required for timely consideration of this application be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-4383.

Respectfully submitted,

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